

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: SHUM SOCI GEN
SUBJECT: CANDIDATE FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION
(RONALD DAVIDSON; VACANCY NO. 77-001-00)

REF: (A) USUN 0996, , (B) USUN 1383, (C) GENEVA 3003, (D) STATE
98224

1. CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR, CALLED ON NEW DIRECTOR OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION VAN BOVEN AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR SANON MAY 10 TO AGAIN CONVEY USG INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATURE OF AMCIT RONALD DAVIDSON FOR POSITION OF SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION ON THE DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. (ON APRIL 26, CHARGE HAD CALLED ON VAN BOVEN'S PREDECESSOR, MARC SCHREIBER FOR SAME PURPOSE, BUT SCHREIBER STATED THAT AS OUTGOING DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION HE FELT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR HIM TO TAKE DECISION ON THIS APPOINTMENT PRIOR TO HIS SUCCESSOR'S INSTALLATION. (REF C)).

2. VAN BOVEN AND SANSON STATED THEY HAD REVIEWED DAVIDSON'S DOSSIER AND CONSIDERED HIM EXCELLENTLY QUALIFIED FOR THIS PARTICULAR POSITION AND THAT THEY WOULD VERY MUCH
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WISH TO HAVE HIM SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT REAL PROBLEM EXISTED IN VIEW OF US DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECADE BECAUSE OF ZIONISM/RACISM LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION. THEY POINTED OUT FURTHER THAT ONE AMERICAN (CULPEPPER; P-3) WAS ALREADY ASSIGNED TO SECRETARIAT AND PRESENCE OF TWO AMERICANS ON THAT BODY IN VIEW OF OUR NON-PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD.

INFERRED, BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY STATED, WAS POINT THAT SHOULD WE TAKE DECISION TO PARTICIPATE, THIS OBJECTION COULD BE OVERCOME. CHARGE DEMURRED THAT DAVIDSON WAS ALREADY IN EMPLOY OF UN AND THEREFORE VIEWED BY USG AS INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT. IN THIS REGARD AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN DISCUSSING, THE UNBALANCED REPRESENTATION OF AMCITS AT UPPER LEVELS IN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION, AS COMPARED FOR INSTANCE WITH FRENCH AND SOVIETS, WAS REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT.

3. VAN BOVEN AND SANON THEN STATED THAT THEY WERE IN PROCESS OF ORGANIZING A STAFF TO SERVE THE COMMITTEE FOR COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (REF A). WHILE THE ACABQ HAD TURNED THEM DOWN FOR A D-1 POSITION TO HEAD THIS STAFF, THEY WERE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THEY COULD GET A P-5 POSITION APPROVED WITHIN THEIR 2.4 PERCENT GROWTH LIMIT. THIS POSITION WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY 1978. SANON IS TO PROCEED TO NEW YORK IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE TO, INTER ALIA, RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH THE ACABQ, AND HE STATED THAT HE WOULD "FIGHT TO THE DEATH" TO GET THE P-5 POSITION. THEY REQUESTED THAT THE US DEL LEND ITS WEIGHT TO SANON'S EFFORT. VAN BOVEN AND SANON EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT DAVIDSON WOULD BE WELL QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION, WHERE HIS PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE A SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE CONTROVERRSY AS WOULD BE THE CASE IN THAT OF THE DECADE SECRETARY. THEY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD BE A PERMANENT POSITION AS OPPOSED TO THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE DECADE SLOT.

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4. FOR AMMAN: DAVIDSON DISCUSSED THIS MATTER AT SOME LENGTH WITH CHARGE AND OTHER MISSION STAFF DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO GENEVA. EMBASSY IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO CONVEY THE FOREGOING MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TO DAVIDSON.SORENSEN

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